

REMARKS

Claims 2-13, 17 and 19-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2-6, 10 and 13 are amended. The amendments introduce no new matter. Claims 14-16, 18 and 22 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) (1) since the amendments accept the allowance of certain claims, and the indication of allowability of other claims enumerated in the Office Action. Specifically, claims are amended to depend from allowed base claims, and rejected subject matter is canceled. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 (b) (1) is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant's appreciate the allowance of claims 19-21 and the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 7-14. The amendments to the claims are taken in light of the allowances and indication of allowability.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 15, 16, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0060756 to Kurashina. Cancelling claims 15, 16, 18 and 22, and amending claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 to depend on allowed claim 21 renders this rejection moot.

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurashina. Cancelling claim 14 and amending claim 4 to depend on allowed claim 21 renders this rejection moot.

Applicants understand that claim 3 has been rejoined based on its treatment in the Office Action. Claim 3 is allowable based on this claim being dependent on an allowed base claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-13, 17 and 19-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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